



**® U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Pacific Ocean Division**

**Colonel
Edward J. Kertis
*Commander and Division Engineer***



Colonel Edward J. Kertis is the 29th Commander and Division Engineer for the Pacific Ocean Division. He is responsible for a mission that includes engineering design, construction and real estate management for the Army and Air Force in Hawaii and Alaska and for all Department of Defense agencies in Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands. The Division also administers the Corps' federal water resource development program and waters and wetlands regulatory program in Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Division's program includes the \$10 billion multi-year Korea Transformation Program and the \$9 billion multi-year Japan Defense Policy Review Initiative.

A Florida native, Col. Kertis entered military service in 1984 upon commissioning as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

His previous commands include Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Walla Walla (Wash.) District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; company commander in the 41st Engineer Battalion (Light), Fort Drum, N.Y.; and engineer troop commander in the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment - Delta. His other troop assignments include service as a platoon leader, staff officer, and later as battalion executive officer in the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C.; Col. Kertis' previous U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' assignments include service as an environmental staff officer in the Corps' Portland District, and area commander of the Honduras/El Salvador Project Offices in the Mobile District. He was the inaugural commander of the Northern District, Gulf Region Division, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he managed construction projects in support of Coalition forces and the Iraqi government.

His joint assignments include serving as the branch chief of the Special Operations Forces Program Branch at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in Alexandria, Va.; serving as Combat Engineer Section Chief at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium; and serving as the military advisor and chief of staff to the NATO Senior Civilian Representative for Afghanistan in Kabul, the former foreign minister of Turkey, Minister Hikmet Çetin.

Col. Kertis was born and raised in Daytona Beach, Fla. He graduated from Stetson University in Deland, Fla., in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. He also earned a Master of Science in environmental engineering sciences from the University of Florida in 1993, majoring in wetlands ecology.

Col. Kertis' awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (one oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (four oak leaf clusters), Master Parachutist Badge, Honduran Parachutist Badge, Silver de Fleury Medal, Pathfinder Badge, and Ranger Tab.

Kertis is an avid surfer, snowboarder and sailor.

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